

Improve your home's value by adding soundproofing

With more people entertaining and staying home these days, a quiet atmosphere takes on a new priority.

To help combat the noises—produced by everything from appliances inside to sirens outside—more consumers are looking for ways to “soundproof” their homes.

If you are building a new home, or renovating or adding to your existing house, you have a perfect opportunity to add soundproofing. One of the most economical ways to accomplish this is with basic home insulation. It can be relatively simple and inexpensive, and can add greatly to the comfort and the value of your home.

Soundproofing may be especially beneficial when you're ready to sell your home.

How To Control Noise Level

Materials placed in walls and ceilings can provide a barrier to sound from the outside and from room to room. Some materials, like lead, reflect sound energy but aren't practical for wrapping rooms. Other alternatives exist, but experts say fiber glass insulation is best because it absorbs sound and saves energy.

When most people think about insulation, they think about insulating the exterior walls. This is important for controlling sound from the outside. But insulating the interior walls is just as important for reducing noise between rooms inside. Ceilings and floors are

also a vital area to reduce noise from overhead or below.

For added sound control, insulate your heating and air conditioning ducts. If you have metal ducts, wrap them in fiber glass insulation with a vapour-retarded facing. If you're adding new ducts, consider a high-efficiency system made from rigid fiberglass insulation boards.

Practical Tips

In addition to insulation, if you are in the process of renovating or remodeling your home, here are some additional “sound” steps you can take.

- Install thick carpeting and padding throughout your home to reduce impact sound.

- Caulk around windows and use weather-stripping at the bottoms of doors.

- Choose solid, wood-insulated core doors where privacy is demanded.

- Use thick glass, insulating glass and storm windows to help reduce sound transmission through windows.

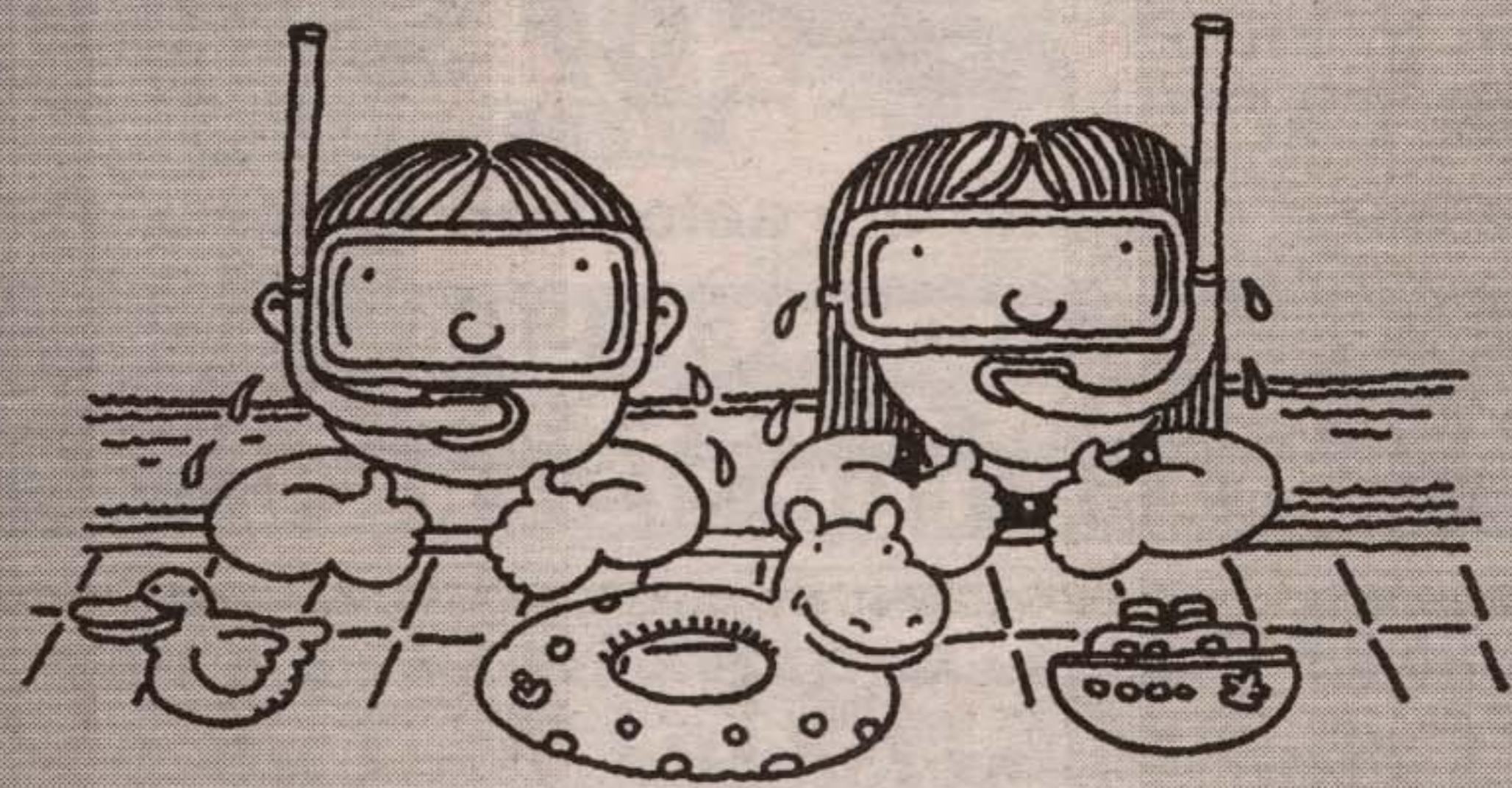
- Select quiet, high-quality appliances.

- Install telephones, doorbells, intercoms or audio built-ins on interior walls only, never on party or corridor walls.

- Caulk holes made by wiring which penetrates connecting structures with elastic non-hardening caulk or dry packing.

- Seal openings around ceiling fixtures airtight.

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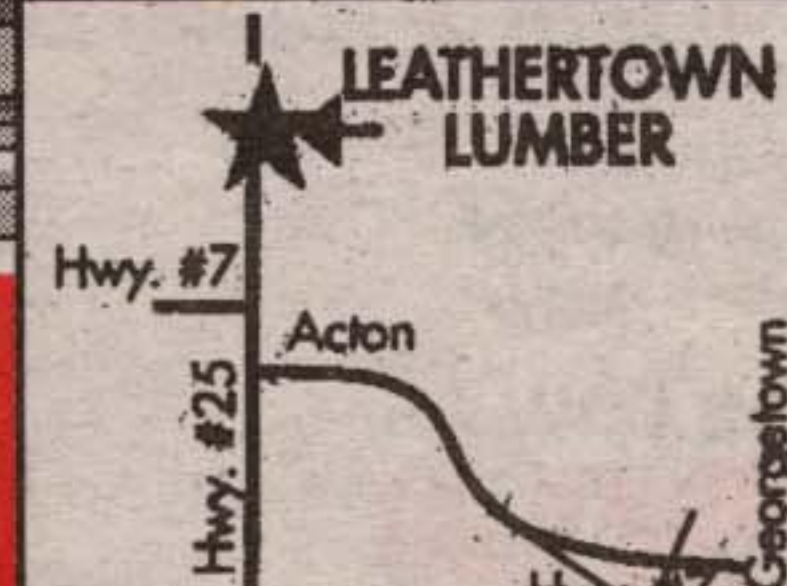
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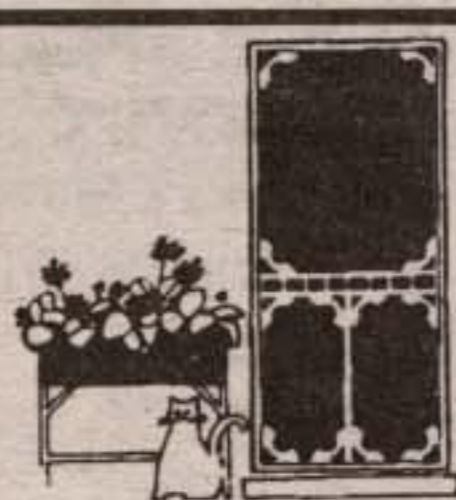
1/2x6 PINE **60¢ LF.**

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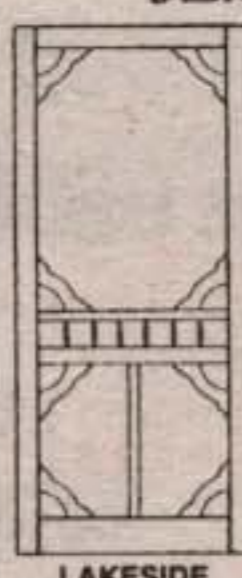
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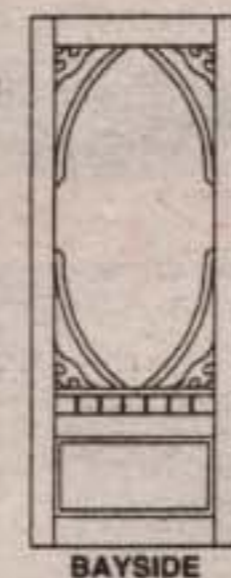
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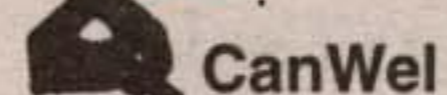
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